

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John Laurence (Reg. No. 63,383) on November 23, 2009 to amend independent claims 1 and 10 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 7 and 16; and to incorporate "the electronic system being arranged to determine whether there is a fault with a fault-monitoring device by being arranged to create a record of a fault from the output of the final fault-monitoring device, the absence of a record being created when the electronic system induces a fault signal output signifying a fault in one of the fault-monitoring devices," limitations found in independent claim 1 into independent claim 10 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic system comprising a system to be monitored having a plurality of output signals, a plurality of fault-monitoring devices each of which is adapted to have a respective first input from the system to be monitored and an output for outputting a fault signal when a respective first input indicates that the system to be monitored is in a fault condition, wherein:
the fault-monitoring devices are arranged in a cascade fashion, a fault-monitoring device having a second input connected to the output of a preceding fault-monitoring device;
the electronic system being adapted to induce a fault-monitoring device of the cascade to output a fault signal, which signal is cascaded as an input to the second input of a subsequent fault-monitoring device; [[and]]
the electronic system being arranged to determine whether there is a fault with a fault-monitoring device by being arranged to create a record of a fault from the output of the final fault-monitoring device, the absence of a record being created when the electronic system induces a fault signal output signifying a fault in one of the fault-monitoring devices[[.]];

wherein a first fault-monitoring device is adapted to output a fault signal when the electronic system is placed into a switched-off condition; and
wherein the electronic system is associated with a vehicle and the electronic system is placed into a switched-off condition by turning an ignition key.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An electronic system according to claim [[5]]1 wherein the first fault-monitoring device is a watch-dog system.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An electronic system according to claim [[5]]1 wherein a second fault-monitoring device has as an input the fault signal from the first fault-monitoring device, the second fault-monitoring system being adapted to output a fault signal when the electronic system experiences an under- or over-voltage condition.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A self-test method for an electronic system comprising a system to be monitored having a plurality of output signals, a plurality of fault-monitoring devices each of which is adapted to have a respective first input from the system to be monitored and an output for outputting a fault signal when a respective first input indicates that the system to be monitored is in a fault condition, the fault-monitoring devices being arranged in a cascade fashion, each fault monitoring device having a second input connected to the output of a preceding fault-monitoring device, the electronic system being adapted to induce a fault monitoring device of the cascade to output a fault signal, which signal is cascaded as an input to the second input of a subsequent fault-monitoring device, the method comprising:

inputting the fault signal from one fault-monitoring device to a subsequent fault-monitoring device to simulate a fault condition associated with the subsequent fault-monitoring device, wherein the output of a final fault-monitoring device in the cascade is used as an indicator of a fault in one of the fault-monitoring devices[[.]];

arranging the electronic system to determine whether there is a fault with a fault-monitoring device by being arranged to create a record of a fault from the output of the final fault-monitoring device, the absence of a record being created when the electronic system induces a fault signal output signifying a fault in one of the fault-monitoring devices;

adapting a first fault-monitoring device to output a fault signal when the electronic system is placed into a switched-off condition; and

placing the electronic system associated with a vehicle and the electronic system into a switched-off condition by turning an ignition key.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A self-test method according to claim [[14]]10 wherein the first fault-monitoring device is a watch-dog system.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An electronic system according to claim [[14]]10 wherein a second fault-monitoring device has as an input the fault signal from the first fault-monitoring device, the second fault-monitoring system being adapted to output a fault signal when the electronic system experiences an under- or over-voltage condition.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP § 2111.01, In re Sneed, 710 F.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385 (Fed. Cir. 1983), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claims 1 and 10.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tejal J. Gami whose telephone number is (571) 270-1035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TJG/

/Ramesh B. Patel/
for Albert Decady, SPE of Art Unit 2121